

REMARKS

The Office Action dated March 29, 2004 has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments to the claims, and the following remarks, are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

Upon entry of this Response, claims 20-38 will be pending in the present application. Claims 20, 24, 28-30, 34, and 38 have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention. Support for the subject matter added to claims 20, 24, 28-30, 34, and 38 may be found generally throughout the present specification and, more specifically, at least from page 3, line 31 through page 4, line 8 and from page 8, line 34 to page 9, line 36 of the present specification. No new matter has been added. Claims 20-38 are respectfully submitted for consideration.

Rejection of Claims 20, 23-30, 32-34, and 38 under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph.

Claims 20, 23-30, 32-34, and 38 were rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicant respectfully submits that the amendments made to claims 20, 24, 28-30, 34, and 38 directly address the issues raised in the Office Action and render this rejection moot. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 20, 23-30, 32-34, and 38 under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims 20-38 under 35 USC §102(b):

Claims 20-38 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,467,388 to Redd, Jr. et al. (Redd '388). Applicant respectfully submits that claims 20-38 are patentable over Redd '388.

Claim 20, upon which claims 21-29 depend, recites a method for controlling call setup in a telecommunication system that includes a telephone network, a telephone exchange connected to the telephone network, a first subscriber line used by an A-party and connected to the telephone exchange, a second subscriber line used by a B-party and connected to the telephone exchange, a first telecommunication terminal, a second telecommunication terminal, an answering service pertaining to the B-party, in which method the first telecommunication terminal is used by the A-party and the second telecommunication terminal is used by the B-party. The method recited in claim 20 includes setting from the second line a function preventing normal connection of a call to the second telecommunication terminal. The method also includes presenting by means of the answering service a group including at least one option of further actions to the first telecommunication terminal. The method further includes choosing by means of the first telecommunication terminal a further action from the list. In addition, the method includes directing by means of the first telecommunication terminal a call received in the answering service in accordance with the chosen action.

Claim 30, upon which claims 31-38 depend, recites a system for controlling call setup in a telecommunication system including a telephone network, a telephone

exchange connected to the telephone network, a first subscriber line used by an A-party and connected to the telephone exchange, a second subscriber line used by a B-party and connected to the telephone exchange, a first telecommunication terminal, a second telecommunication terminal, an answering service pertaining to the B-party, in which system the first telecommunication terminal is used by the A-party and the second telecommunication terminal is used by the B-party. The system recited in claim 30 includes means for setting a function preventing normal setup of a call addressed to the second telecommunication terminal, means for presenting a group including at least one option of further actions to the first telecommunication terminal, and means for choosing a further action from the list. The system also includes means for directing a call received in the answering service in accordance with the chosen action.

As discussed in the present specification, methods and systems according to the claimed invention allow for a decision regarding the final connection of a call to be made by an A-party, depending on the importance of the matter at hand. It is respectfully submitted that Redd '388 fails to disclose or suggest the elements of any of the presently pending claims. Therefore, it is further submitted that Redd '388 fails to provide at least the above-discussed advantage of the claimed invention.

Redd '388 discloses a "system for allowing a telephone subscriber to selectively block incoming calls for selected time periods or during programmed time intervals" (Abstract, lines 1-3). Redd '388 also discloses that an object thereof is "to allow access to

a subscriber for calls origination (sic) from specific predetermined numbers" (Column 4, lines 41-43).

However, Redd '388 fails to disclose or suggest at least "presenting...a group comprising at least one option of further actions to first telecommunication terminal," as recited in claim 20 of the present application. Redd '388 also fails to disclose or suggest at least "choosing...a further action from said list," as also recited in claim 20 of the present application. In addition, Redd '388 also fails to disclose or suggest at least the "means for presenting a group comprising at least one option of further actions to the first telecommunication terminal," recited in claim 30 of the present application. Further, Redd '388 also fails to disclose or suggest at least the "means for choosing a further action from said list" recited in claim 30 of the present application.

Applicant points out that the methods and systems recited in claims 20-38 of the present application provide "options of further actions" to a calling party. For example, according to certain embodiments of the claimed invention, if the called party is busy, the called party can enable a service that presents a list of options to the calling party. Then, the calling party can choose, for example, to use a voicemail service or to direct the call to a secretary of the called party. Applicant respectfully submits that Redd '388 fails to disclose or suggest at least either methods or systems that provide the "options" recited in claims 20-38 of the present application. At least for this reason, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 20-38 of the present application are patentable over Redd '388.

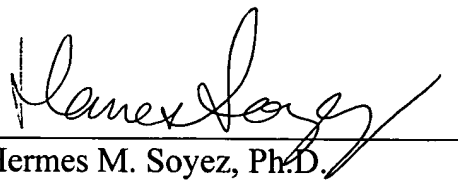
At least in view of the above claim amendments and remarks, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 20-38 under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Redd '388 is respectfully requested.

Applicant respectfully submits that all of the comments included in the Office Action have been addressed and that all of the issues raised in the Office Action have been overcome. Hence, Applicant respectfully further submits that claims 20-38 of the present application contain allowable subject matter. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that all claims pending in the present application be allowed, and that this application be passed to issue.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the Applicant's undersigned representative at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hermes M. Soyez', is written over a horizontal line.

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